AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for testing a fecal sample from a person for diagnosis, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person, other than a breast-fed infant;

determining whether the sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin ~~is present in the sample~~; and

~~if so,~~ determining whether the sample contains an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies (ASCA) and an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA) if the sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin, ~~are present in the sample.~~

wherein a diagnosis of Crohn's disease may be substantially concluded if the sample contains an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies, and

wherein a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis may be substantially concluded if the sample contains an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the presence of elevated lactoferrin is used to aid in the~~ a diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease may be concluded if said sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein a ~~the absence of elevated lactoferrin is used to aid in the~~ diagnosis of irritable bowel syndrome may be concluded if said sample does not contain an elevated level of lactoferrin.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2[3], wherein the elevated level ~~presence of~~ anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies differentiates ~~is used to aid in the differentiation of~~ ulcerative colitis from Crohn's disease.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2[4], wherein the elevated level of ~~presence of~~ anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies differentiates Crohn's disease from ulcerative colitis.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the lactoferrin, anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies and anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies are measured using one of enzyme-linked immunoassays, lateral flow membrane tests and immunoassays utilizing antibodies or capturing fragments.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~presence of~~ lactoferrin is measured determined by a qualitative ELISA.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~presence of~~ lactoferrin is measured quantitatively.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising: diluting the sample.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising: contacting the sample with immobilized polyclonal antibodies to endogenous lactoferrin to create a treated sample.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

contacting said treated sample with enzyme-linked polyclonal antibodies such that the enzyme-linked polyclonal antibodies are allowed to bind to capture lactoferrin to create an enzyme-linked antibody bound sample ~~readable~~ sample.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

adding a substrate to the enzyme-linked antibody bounds ample to create a readable sample; and

determining the optical density of said readable sample at 450 nm, wherein said optical density corresponds to the level of endogenous lactoferrin in the readable sample.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising: generating a ~~purified lactoferrin~~ standard curve from purified lactoferrin.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising: comparing said optical density of said readable sample to said standard curve to determine the concentration of endogenous lactoferrin in said the sample.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising: contacting the sample with antigens of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* to create a treated sample.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising: contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human immunoglobulin conjugated to an enzyme such that the polyvalent antibodies are allowed to bind to capture anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies to create an enzyme-linked antibody bound ~~readable~~ sample.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

adding a substrate to the enzyme-linked antibody bound sample to create a readable sample; and

determining the optical density of the readable sample, wherein said optical density corresponds to a level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies in the readable sample.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising: contacting the sample with neutrophil cytoplasmic antigens to create a treated sample.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising: contacting the treated sample with polyvalent antibodies to human immunoglobulin such that the polyvalent antibodies are allowed to bind to capture anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies to create an enzyme-linked antibody bound ~~readable~~ sample.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

adding an enzyme substrate to the enzyme-linked antibody bound sample to create a readable sample; and

determining an optical density of the readable sample at 450 nm, wherein said optical density corresponds to a level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies in the readable sample.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method for distinguishing inflammatory bowel disease from irritable bowel syndrome and for differentiating ulcerative colitis from Crohn's disease, the method comprising:

obtaining a fecal sample from a person presenting with symptoms common to inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome, other than a breast-fed infant;

determining whether the sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin ~~is present in the sample~~;

diagnosing the person with irritable bowel syndrome if the fecal sample does not contain an elevated level of lactoferrin;

diagnosing the person with inflammatory bowel disease if the fecal sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin;

~~if so,~~ determining whether the person has an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies (ASCA) and an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA) if the fecal sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin and the person has been diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease to differentiate Crohn's disease from ulcerative colitis;~~are present in the sample,~~ and

~~diagnosing the person with irritable bowel syndrome if elevated lactoferrin is not present in the sample;~~

~~diagnosing the person with inflammatory bowel disease if lactoferrin;~~

diagnosing the person with Crohn's disease if the sample contains an elevated level of anti-*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* antibodies ~~are present in the sample~~; and

diagnosing the person with ulcerative colitis if the sample contains an elevated level of anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies ~~are present in the sample~~.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, ~~wherein if lactoferrin is present in the sample~~further comprising:

monitoring the person for changing levels of fecal lactoferrin as an indicator for the effectiveness of medical therapy, wherein if the sample contains an elevated level of lactoferrin intestinal inflammation is indicated.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)